TUESDAY • NOVEMBER 22, 2022 • www.bworldonline.com VOL. XXXVI • ISSUE 85 PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE'S 10 MOST ACTIVE STOCKS BY VALUE TURNOVER • NOVEMBER 21, 2022 (PSEi snapshot on S1/2; article on S2/2) **S1/1-10 • 2 SECTIONS, 14 PAGES** 

**ACEN ABA** P2.920 **JFC** P252.000 P129.000 **ICT** P190.000 P28.100 P836.000 P32.000 P33.800 Value Value P799,615,490 P572,048,756 P332,388,490 P330,053,377 **Value** P313,789,925 Value P226,159,925 Value P198,422,475 Value P182,425,087 P181,895,245 P172,114,040 P2.000 **1.064%** P1.450 P0.150 **3.279**% **0.078**% -P1.600 **▼ -5.387**% -P23.000 ▼ -2.678%

# US, PHL to negotiate civil nuclear deal

By Alyssa Nicole O. Tan

Reporter

THE United States and the Philippines are set to launch negotiations on a civil nuclear energy agreement, US Vice-President Kamala Harris said on Monday.

According to a fact sheet sent by the US embassy in the Philippines, the US and Philippines have opened talks on a civil nuclear cooperation agreement "to support expanded cooperation on zero-emission energy and nonproliferation priorities."

"Once in force, this agreement will provide the legal basis for US exports of nuclear equipment and material to the

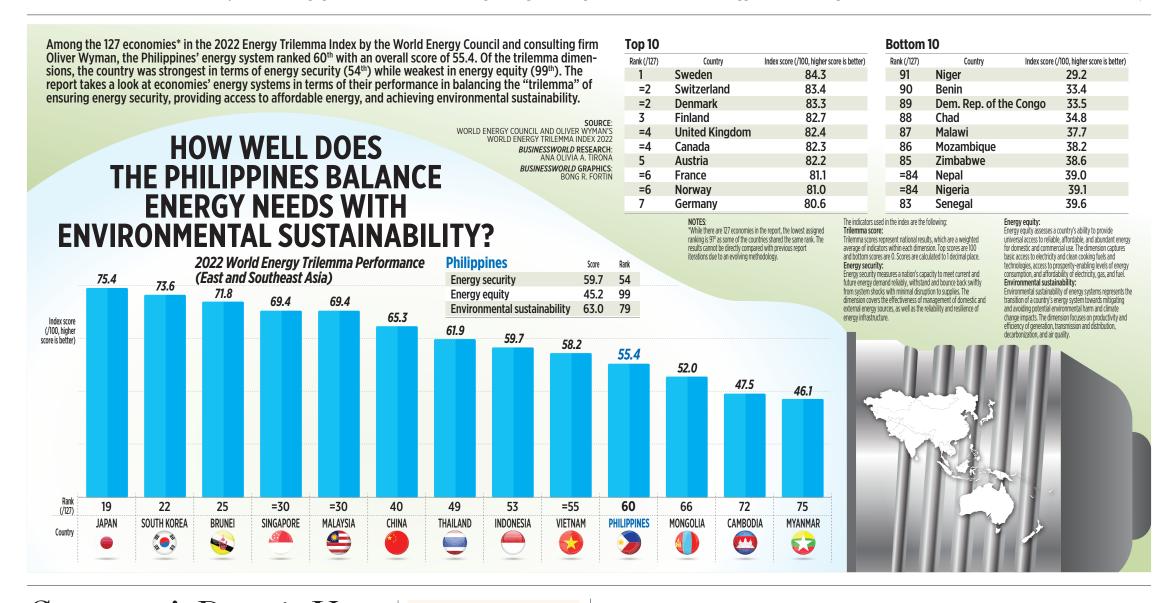
Philippines. United States is committed to working with the Philippines to increase energy security and deploying advanced nuclear reactor technology as quickly as safety and security conditions permit to meet the Philippines' dire baseload power needs," the US embassy said.

Ms. Harris is currently in the Philippines as part of a trip to bolster economic and security ties with key Asian countries. She met with President Ferdinand R. Marcos, Jr. and Vice-President Sara Duterte-Carpio on Monday.

Also known as the "123 Agreement," the US embassy said it would help both countries achieve their energy security and climate goals, as well as provide commercial opportunities for the private sector.

The 123 Agreement consists of arrangements to ensure that civil nuclear energy cooperation is protected against nuclear weapons proliferation. It is also the basis of the US National Security Act that requires such arrangement to be in place before it can proceed with the civil cooperation.

Nuclear, S1/9



### Converge's Dennis Uy named Entrepreneur Of The Year Philippines

**DENNIS ANTHONY H. UY**, chief executive officer (CEO) and co-founder of Converge ICT Solutions, Inc. (Converge), was named the Entrepreneur Of The Year Philippines **2022** in an awards banquet at the Grand Hyatt Manila on Monday evening.

Mr. Uy will represent the country in the prestigious World Entrepreneur Of The Year awards in Monte Carlo, Monaco in June 2023.

Mr. Uy was recognized for his passion for technology, his desire to bring internet connectivity to Filipinos and his visionary ability to stay ahead of the competition. He had the foresight to invest in fiber optics and micro-trenching while the industry was still using older technologies, leading to Converge being one of the first to offer fiber-to-the-home fixed broadband services in the country.

Mr. Uy also received the Master Entrepre**neur Award** for maintaining management excellence over a sustained period of time in key areas of the company including finance, marketing, human resources and sales. He co-founded the company that would become Converge as a small provincial player offering dial-up connections during the internet's early days. Converge is now the fastest-growing fiber internet



Trade Secretary Alfredo E. Pascual delivered the keynote address at the awards banquet, where other awards were presented for the Young Entrepreneur, Technology Entrepreneur, Small Business Entrepreneur, Woman Entrepreneur, and Emerging Entrepreneur categories.

Leandro Antonio L. Leviste, CEO and president of Solar Philippines Power Project Holdings, Inc., received the **Young Entrepreneur Award** for establishing one of the largest solar energy production companies in Southeast Asia. The company is now building utility-scale solar farms in multiple provinces and a large-scale solar-battery baseload project, with the goal of generating cheaper and more reliable electricity to Filipinos.

Converge, S1/9

#### **FUEL PRICE TRACKER** GASOLINE Nov. 15 P0.90 Nov. 22 $\blacksquare$ P0.40 DIESEL P0.50 Nov. 15 P0.30 ▼ P2.15 Nov. 22 **KEROSENE** Nov. 15 P1.35 $\blacksquare$ Nov. 22

• Nov. 22, 12:01 a.m. — Caltex Philippines • Nov. 22, 6 a.m. — Petron Corp.; Phoenix Petroleum: Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp.; PTT Philippines Corp.; Seaoil Philippines, Inc.

• Nov. 22, 8:01 a.m. — Cleanfuel (Shaw

## BoI to miss '22 investment goal

is unlikely to reach its target of approving P1 trillion in new investments this year, reflecting the impact of the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict on global investor sentiment.

Ceferino S. Rodolfo, Trade undersecretary and BoI managing head, told reporters on Monday the BoI has approved P644.4 billion in investments from January to Nov. 15 this year, representing only 64.4% of its P1-trillion target for this year.

The BoI said 81% or P518.3 billion of the total approved investments came from domestic investors, while the rest came from foreign sources.

However, the January-to-November figure is already 73.51%

higher compared with the P371.4 billion approved investments in the same period in 2021.

"What is certain is that we will surpass our 2021 level. That is for certain," Mr. Rodolfo said in mixed English and Filipino.

The BoI's total investment approvals stood at P655.4 billion in

"We did not foresee that there would be the Ukraine-Russia war that will have an impact not just on investment going to the Philippines, but also globally. It really affected us. But it is still good news that we will be able to surpass 2021 levels." Mr. Rodolfo added.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in late February had widespread economic implications for the

was felt through rising prices of commodities such as food and energy, soaring inflation, supply chain disruptions, lower business confidence and higher investor uncertainty.

For the January-to-November period, the BoI said the biggest amount of approved investments were committed to the power sector at P343.8 billion.

This was followed by information and communications technology sector with P197.6 billion, administrative and support services activities with P26.8 billion, transportation and storage with P25.2 billion, and real estate with P23.8 billion.

BoI, S1/9

### DBM may slash budget of agencies with low utilization rates

THE DEPARTMENT of Budget and Management (DBM) may consider slashing the budget allocations for government agencies with low utilization rates.

"Given our really small fiscal space, we need to instill discipline in our National Government agencies so we can put the money to agencies who can really implement them," Budget Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman told

reporters on Monday. She said the DBM will "cut" the budget of agencies with low budget utilization.

Data from the DBM showed the government's cash utilization rate was at 94% as of end-October.

The National Government, local governments and state-owned firms used P3.36 trillion out of the P3.56 trillion in Notice of Cash Allocation (NCA) issued to them in the January-to-October period.

Line departments used 92% or P2.27 trillion of their NCAs as of the end of October, leaving P201.42 billion unused.

The Commission on Human Rights was the only department to post a budget usage rate at

On the other hand, the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT)

recorded the lowest rate at 67%. "If there's a question why the DICT budget is quite low, it's

because there's still an existing budget from previous years that can still be used," Ms. Pangandaman added.

Meanwhile, the government's funding releases at the end of October hit P5.08 trillion, exceeding the P5.024-trillion budget for the year.

This was mainly due to P200.19

billion in unprogrammed appropriations and P45.29 billion in other automatic appropriations.

Ms. Pangandaman said that the government is not worried about overspending or exceeding its budget cap as its deficit is still within target.

"We're still within the target, and I am happy with that, because at least the agencies now are trying

to use the money and utilize it better to implement their projects... maybe it's also a reason that the economy is open and then we're trying to push for them (to utilize their budget more)," she added.

The National Government's fiscal deficit stood at P179.8 billion in September, versus the P180.9 billion a year earlier and the P72 billion in August.

In the nine-month period, the deficit-to-GDP ratio stood at 6.5%, still below the government's 7.6% target by yearend.

Ms. Pangandaman said there are no projections yet for additional fund releases for the rest of the year.

DBM, S1/9